



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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1 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. United Nations

U Thant's decision not to seek a new term as secretary general leaves a wide-open field for possible successors since no strong candidate has emerged. Several Latin Americans have been mentioned, and there is some sentiment among African delegations to press for an African candidate.

Close associates of U Thant testify to the sincerity of his desire to withdraw from his post. However, he may be willing to serve ad interim until a successor can be found. That search could be long and arduous.

2. South Vietnam

South Vietnam's Foreign Minister Do was so hopping mad over De Gaulle's Phnom Penh speech that he called in foreign correspondents to give them the benefit of "a few choice thoughts." Among other things, he defended the US presence in Vietnam and noted acidly that it had been France--not the US--that had sought to reimpose colonial domination after World War II.

So far, there has been no reaction to De Gaulle's speech from Peking, Moscow, or Hanoi.

3. South Vietnam

Radical Buddhist leader Tri Quang is once again raising the possibility of suicide unless Ky and Thieu resign.

Tri Quang has painted himself into a corner with his hunger strike and his unbending opposition to the government. It is possible he had decided martyrdom is the only way out of this predicament. However, he has by no means committed himself publicly to suicide. Should he die, there would be an immediate stir among the Buddhist faithful, but probably no serious lasting impact on the political scene.

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4. Brazil

Carlos Lacerda, the powerful perennial opponent of Brazilian governments, may have overstepped the bounds in his latest challenge to President Castello Branco. Lacerda's vitriolic attack, in the form of a magazine article, included charges of subservience to the United States and went so far as to call for a resort to violence if necessary.

Castello Branco can scarcely overlook this latest attack, although in the past he has deliberately ignored Lacerda's outbursts. He may charge Lacerda under the security law, even at the risk of making him a martyr.

Lacerda's blast comes at a time when public dissatisfaction with the government is widespread on the eve of gubernatorial elections due to start Saturday.

5. Burundi

The new government plans to renew diplomatic relations with Communist China and support Peking's entry into the UN. Relations were broken early last year when the former king became convinced the Chinese were trying to subvert his government.

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